



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services  
Nebraska Field Office  
203 West Second Street  
Grand Island, Nebraska 68801

December 10, 2003

### MEMORANDUM

To: Steve Whitson, Refuge Manager-Crescent Lake NWR

From: Nebraska Field Supervisor

Subject: Intra-Service Section 7 Consultation Regarding the Proposed Hunting Plan for Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge

We have reviewed the evaluation form for the subject consultation and concur that activities associated with the proposed Hunting Plan will not effect federally listed threatened and endangered species, and candidate species, or adversely modify designated critical habitat. We have signed the evaluation form signature page and it is attached for your records. Reinitiation of consultation with the Service will be required under section 7 (a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended if the proposed action is changed in any way.

If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Wally Jobman within our office at (308)382-6468, extension 16.

Attachment



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge  
10630 Rd. 181  
Ellsworth, NE. 69340



To: Steve Anschutz, Ecological Services Field Supervisor

From: Steve Whitson, Refuge Manager-Crescent Lake NWR

Subject: Section 7 Review  
This is a request for an Intra-Service Consultation regarding the Hunting Plan for Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

## **Background**

Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge is roughly 45,850 acres. Species of Concern are the Bald Eagle, Whooping Crane, and Blowout Penstemon. No other species of concern have been documented on the refuge. Whooping Crane occurrence is limited to migratory fly-overs.

Hunting will only occur in those areas of the Refuge that are currently open to public use. Vehicle traffic is limited only to roads that are open to public use.

In my opinion the increased hunting opportunities at Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge will not adversely affect any individual of any listed or candidate species, nor will it adversely affect the habitats associated with those species.

Enclosed you will find the section seven consultation form in my own format. I am trying to get everything submitted for the Hunting Plan by the end of December. I did talk to Wally Jobman and he said I could get a quick response on this. It would be greatly appreciated so I can meet the end of December deadline for 50CFR changes. If you have any questions give me a call.

Thank you.

Steve Whitson  
Refuge Manager  
Crescent Lake NWR  
(308) 762-4893 Ext. 23  
steve\_whitson@fws.gov

## Intra-Service Section 7 Biological Evaluation Form

### I. Region:

Region 6  
Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge  
Originating Person: Steve Whitson, Refuge Manager  
Telephone Number: 308 762-4893 Ext. 23

### II. Service Activity:

Public Hunting

### III. Pertinent Species and Habitat:

A. Listed species and /or their critical habitat within the action area:

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)  
Blowout Penstemon (*Penstemon haydenii*)  
Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*)

B. Proposed species and /or their critical habitat within the action area:

None

C. Candidate Species and /or their critical habitat within the action area:

None

D. Include species habitat occurrence on a map.

### IV. Geographic area or station name and action:

Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge: Public Hunting

### V. Location (attach map):

(map attached)

A. Eco-region Number and Name:

#18; Platte/Kansas Rivers

B. County and State:

Garden County, Nebraska

C. Section, township, and range (or latitude and longitude):

T.21-20 N. R.42-45W.

D. Distance (miles) and direction to nearest town.

26 miles North of Oshkosh, NE

E. Species/habitat occurrence:

(See Map)

## **VI. Description of proposed action:**

The implementation of the Hunting Plan will continue hunting of deer, grouse and pheasant; and expand hunting opportunities to include waterfowl, rabbit, coyote, and furbearer hunting.

## **VII. Determination of effects:**

A. Explanation of effects of the action on species and critical habitats in items III. A, B, and C :

### Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

There are two nest sites on the Refuge. One (Hackberry Lake) is located in the closed area of the Refuge, which will remain closed to hunting. The second site (Crane Lake) is in an area that will receive minimal use to hunting activities. Hunting will only occur on the Refuge from September 1 to January 31, the eagles tend to start nesting at Crescent Lake NWR in mid-February. Hunting will have No Effect.

### Blowout Penstemon (*Penstemon haydenii*)

Penstemon Populations occur within the Choppy habitat sites on the Refuge. These sites are far away from public use roads and are not accessible by vehicle. Hunting will only occur on the Refuge from September 1 to January 31, which is outside the growing season for Blowout Penstemon. Hunting will have No Effect.

### Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*)

Whooping Cranes are not known to land or frequent any sites of the Refuge. They are an infrequent flyover species. -No effect

No adverse effects to individuals of proposed, candidate, or listed species is expected.

B. Explanation of actions to be implemented to reduce adverse effects:

No adverse effects to individuals of proposed, candidate, or listed species is expected.

**VIII. Effect determination and response requested:**

**A. Listed species / designated critical habitat:**

**Determination**

no effect/ no adverse modification

(species: *Bald Eagle, Whooping Crane, Blowout Penstemon*)

Response requested

☒ Concurrency

may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect species/ adversely modify critical habitat

(species: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_ Concurrency

may affect, and is likely to adversely affect species/adversely modify critical habitat

(species: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_ Formal Consultation

**B. Proposed species / critical habitat:**

**Determination**

no effect/ no adverse modification

(species: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_ Concurrency

may affect, and is likely to adversely affect

proposed species/adversely modify proposed critical habitat

(species: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_ Conference

**C. Candidate species / critical habitat:**

**Determination**

no effect/ no adverse modification

(species: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_ Concurrency

may affect, and is likely to adversely affect

proposed species/adversely modify proposed critical habitat

(species: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_ Conference

Steve Whitson

Signature

Steve Whitson, Refuge Manager-CRLNWR

4 Dec 03  
Date

**IX. Reviewing ESO Evaluation:**

A. Concurrency ☒ NonConcurrency \_\_\_\_\_

B. Formal consultation required \_\_\_\_\_

C. Conference required \_\_\_\_\_

D. Informal conference required \_\_\_\_\_

E. Remarks (attach additional pages as needed:)

Steven Orischuk  
Signature

(Title/office of reviewing official)

10 Dec 03  
Date